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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

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VOL. 3. NO. 27 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1913. WHOLE NO. 131

CHANGE IN ELECTION LAW.

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 4.—A change was made in the election law at the Nashville convention of the International Typographical Union. Hereafter members of subordinate unions who desire to be candidates for office in the International Typographical Union are required to announce such candidacy in the December and January issues of the Typographical Journal preceding the date fixed by law for the making of nominations. This announcement is to be confined to four lines of six-point type, one column in width. Subordinate unions may nominate candidates for each elective office at the regular meeting in February and the nominations are to close at noon on March 8. Following this, the International Secretary-Treasurer is to mail notices of nominations to all eligible candidates and each candidate so notified is required to acknowledge his or her acceptance on or before March 25. It is also required that each candidate shall file with the Secretary-Treasurer a statement that he or she is eligible under the by-laws, said statement to be attested by the President and Secretary of the local union with the seal of the union attached. Candidates who have received sufficient indorsement and filed their acceptance of the nomination are entitled to space in the April and May issues of the Typographical Journal for the publication of reasons and arguments in support of their candidacy, such to be personally prepared by the candidates. Other printed matter in advocacy of any particular candidate must be signed by the candidate or three members in good standing of the International Typographical Union.

TEXTILE WORKERS PROGRESS.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Wages in the cotton, woolen, and silk manufacturing industries of the United States during the past twenty-three years have largely increased, while nominal full time hours per week for the principal occupations have decreased, according to a statement just issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The industries referred to employ approximately 331,000 persons. The rates of wages per hour show an increase in the cotton industry in 1912 over those of 1890 of 61.5 per cent, and an average increase in 1912 over 1910 of 11.1 per cent. The increase in wages in the woolen industry in 1912 over 1890 is 49.7 per cent, while the increase in 1912 shows 12.5 per cent over 1910. The silk industry shows a smaller increase than the other two industries, there only having been a 18.8 per cent increase in 1912 over 1890, while the increase shown in 1912 over 1910 was 4.1 per cent. The working hours in the cotton industry show that there has been a decrease of 8.1 per cent for 1912 over 1890. For the same period the woolen industry shows a 6.3 per cent decrease, while the silk industry shows a decrease of 5.8 per cent.

CHILD LABOR LAW EFFECTIVE.

Baltimore, Oct. 4.—The State Bureau of Industrial Statistics and Information deals directly with the child labor law's enforcement, and that bureau claims that the 2,000 boys and girls of school age enrolled in the schools this year in excess of the number enrolled last year is the result of the new child labor law. The bureau is empowered to issue permits for boys and girls to work during the vacation period, but as soon as school opens these permits become void. Under the law, however, a child, in order to secure a permit to work, must be fourteen years old and have completed fifth grade work, including certain specific branches, such as fractions. A large number of children under no restrictions would have gone to work this fall, but because they have not completed the fifth grade their attendance at school was compulsory. The law is working out in a satisfactory manner, and is considered to be a long step in advance.

LONGSHOREMEN GET IN.

San Pedro, Cal., Oct. 4.—A large and enthusiastic organization of Longshoremen has been organized at San Pedro. It is asserted that a foundation has now been made for one of the largest Longshoremen's local unions in the country. The opening of the Panama Canal, it is generally agreed, will bring such an immense amount of shipping to this section of the country that the workers, of necessity, must protect themselves by organization. The independent Longshoremen's Union that has been in existence here, will amalgamate with the new local union, which affiliated with the International Longshoremen's Union. The Longshoremen are now carrying on a campaign on the coast with the end in view of increasing the present membership and the organization of new local unions wherever possible.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Representatives in Congress are discussing the immigration question, and it is likely that an attempt will be made before the adjournment of the special session to pass an immigration bill, with an literacy test as its leading feature, similar to that vetoed by former President Taft. At a meeting of the House Committee on Immigration recently the old Burnett-Dillingham bill, which met Mr. Taft's disapproval, was ordered reported to the House. Those who are anxious to secure the passage of this measure are bestirring themselves to secure the necessary support. It will be remembered that the bill was passed over the President's veto in the Senate, and lacked only a change of three votes in the House to have that body take similar action.

TRADE UNIONS RECOGNIZED.

Washington, Oct. 4.—A London dispatch states that an important victory for the trade unions has been gained, in that the British admiralty has decided to award them official recognition. This is interpreted to mean that hereafter in dealing with employes regarding wages, hours and conditions of labor the unions of the various crafts will be recognized as the representatives of the employes. With this general policy established by the British government it will have a salutary effect upon all corporations equipped to manufacture products used by that government.

PLUMBERS STILL OUT.

Houston, Tex., Oct. 4.—There has been no material change in the Plumbers' strike situation, although a number of conferences have been held between the representatives of the Journeymen and the Master Plumbers. It is believed, however, that a settlement of the contest is near at hand.

TEAMSTERS GROWING.

Toronto, Canada, Oct. 4.—The new Teamsters and Chauffeurs' Union, recently organized by the organizing committee of the District Labor Council, is making remarkably rapid headway. At a recent meeting seventy candidates were initiated and the total membership is now at the 200 mark.

REINSTATES LAWYER.

Toledo, Ohio, Oct. 4—The Supreme Court of the State has restored the right to practice law in Ohio to Charles A. Thatcher, an attorney disbarred four years ago for criticising Toledo judges and Ohio State Spreme Court judges. The Lawyers' union sought Thatchers' disbarrment because of his criticism of the judges, these criticisms being based on decisions favorable to big corporations in personal injury cases, of which the bulk of his practice consisted. Thatcher's defense was that his obligations as an attorney did not remove his constitutional right of free speech. The elections following Thatcher's disbarrment resulted in the defeat of two judges and the withdrawal from the race of another candidate. Another judge criticised by Thatcher died in office. In 1912, under the nonpartisan judiciary law, Thatcher was a candidate for supreme judge, but was defeated, although obtaining a remarkable vote, running only slightly behind the leaders in the contest. This ends an interesting incident, five of the judges on the State Supreme Court Bench voting to annul the disbarrment and only one judge voting to continue it.

RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Two were killed and one seriously scalded when a Chicago bound Baltimore and Ohio train jumped the track just east of Youngstown, Ohio, the engine turning completely over. The engineer and fireman were killed, but no passengers were injured. A special train on the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway collided with a switching engine in the yards at Indiana, Pa., seriously injuring three officials of the road. Three young men were killed at Jefferson Junction near Scranton, Pa., in a headon collision of freight trains on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. Four members of the train crews were also injured. The engineer was fatally injured and several passengers severely bruised when the engine and baggage car of a fast Frisco passenger train went into a ditch sixteen miles North of New Orleans. The train collided with a flat car.

WANTS YARDS BUSY.

Washington, Oct. 4.—In order to maintain government navy yards at their highest efficiency through continuous employment of a full force of mechanics Secretary Daniels is devising a plan by which he hopes to induce all the executive branches of government to send to the government yards all repair work to be done on all types of floating craft owned by the government. The end to be finally sought is the construction also of all government craft at government yards. The Secretary points out that uninterrupted employment for navy yard workers is one of the essentials of the efficient operation of naval stations, while failure to give continuous employment to these workers may seriously impair their usefulness in time of emergency. The position is taken that assignment of all work on government craft to government yards, not only would decrease the cost, but would increase military efficiency in times of emergency.

JOIN CARPENTERS.

San Francisco, Oct. 4.—The various local unions, comprising what is known as the Pacific Coast Maritime Builders' Federation, located at numerous points along the coast from San Diego to Vancouver, B. C., comprising Caulkers, Ship Carpenters, Ship Joiners and Boat Builders, are being chartered by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. These local unions some years ago were attached to what was then known as the International Shipwrights, Joiners, and Caulkers' Union of America, but seceded from the International Union and formed the Pacific Coast Maritime Builders' Federation. The convention of the Maritime Federation recently held in Portland, Oreg., took action upon the matter and in due time complete affiliation will be had and much strength will be added not only to the Brotherhood of Carpenters, but also to the water front organizations.

COLORADO MINERS STRIKE.

Denver, Oct. 4.—More than 10,000 coal miners in this State are now on strike. While the mine operators confidently expected a majority of their employes to remain at work, at least 90 per cent of all the coal miners in the State quit work in response to the call of the miners' union. Tents and provisions are being supplied for the strikers, and officials of the United Mine Workers are in charge. It is stated that 3,000 men formerly employed in the mines have already left the State for the purpose of procuring work in the East. Nineteen independent coal companies in the State have signed up with the union and 2,000 miners returned to work. Most of these independent companies operate in El Paso County.

YARD CLERKS STRIKE.

Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 4.—The clerks in the Big Four yards are on strike. The men quit their employment because the company refused to increase their wages. The men were receiving $59 per month and were compelled to work every day in the year, and they claim that their wages were far below those received by men on other railroads engaged in similar work. Prominent Big Four officials are filling the places of the striking clerks, it having been impossible to obtain men to fill the vacancies. These men on strike are unorganized.

MAKING BIG GAINS.

Toronto, Can., Oct. 4.—Division No 113 of the Street and Electric Employes' Union has broken all records during the past two months. From the middle of July until the middle of August more than 100 new candidates were added to the roster of the union and for the following month to September 15 the ratio of increase has been maintained, making a new record. The total membership has now reached the 1,900 mark and the indications point to a successful effort in making this union a 100 per cent one.

WILL CARRY IT UP.

San Francisco, Oct. 4.—Judge Seawell recently handed down a decision in favor of a certain publishing company in the matter of the latter's application for a writ of mandate to compel the Mayor to sign the company's contract for city printing which had been awarded before the strike of the Press Feeders occurred. The city attorney is preparing an appeal to the decision rendered by the judge to the District Court of Appeals.

SHIP LOAD OF FOOD.

Dublin, Ireland, Oct. 4.—The relief ship, loaded with provisions furnished by the British Trade Union Congress, in aid of the Dublin Transport Workers, has arrived and been distributed. The value of the food was $25,000 and was unloaded by the strikers and carried to food sheds where it was distributed to the hungry strikers, each of whom received a package of rations weighing twenty pounds.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPEALS FOR FUNDS FOR MICHIGAN COPPER MINERS

The copper miners of Michigan are engaged in an unequal struggle to establish a living wage and conditions of labor which approach the American standard. For years they have submissively accepted the pittance grudgingly given them without a protest, while at the same time the owners of the mines have been appropriating to themselves fabulous sums in dividends. Realizing their helplessness as individuals, the copper miners organized and entreated the owners to do justice to them. Failing in this, there was only one thing left—the strike. Appreciating the importance of this conflict, and knowing that the union men of the country would respond to the call for assistance for these copper miners, the Executive Council has issued the following appeal:

Washington, D. C., September 29, 1913.

To All Organized Labor:

Each new advance in human betterment leaves its furrows of pain and suffering across human hearts and lives. There is scarcely a worker in all America who does not know the meaning of a strike, during which the workers and their families have suffered and endured in order to obtain justice; or who has not felt the terrible fear for the physical safety of loved ones in the thick of the contest, or the heart-breaking pain because of inability to supply even the barest necessities of life for those dependent upon him. To you, members of organized labor, the brave struggle of the copper miners of Calumet, Michigan, will appeal with greatest effect.

After exhausting all other means of securing the just demands which they made upon their employers, these miners laid aside their tools on July 23, and went out on a strike. They had been working a so-called ten-hour day, which in reality was an eleven-hour day, for wages that would not permit American standards of living. Miners have been forced to handle individually heavy drilling machines which had formerly been operated by two men. After considering all matters, the men decided to demand an eight-hour day, three dollars as the minimum wage, and two men to handle drilling machines, as formerly. All requests for conferences or consideration of these just demands were ignored and treated with contempt.

Despite the fact that the strike was inaugurated peacefully and has been conducted by the miners without even the slightest show of violence, seldom has there been such a display of arbitrary methods on the part of the mine operators and governmental authorities. The morning after the strike began hundreds of deputies were sworn in; the employers imported companies of Waddell-Mahon guards; finally State troops were sent to the mining district that the mine owners might be enabled to operate their mines and the voice of Labor in its appeal for justice might be silenced. All of this display of force was under the pretense of protecting property (when the miners did not attack it, nor contemplate attacking it); when the miners attempted to protect and promote human rights, they were ridden down in the streets, clubbed, fired upon!

Though there have been the usual efforts to foment strife and to stir up violence among the strikers, yet no property has been destroyed, and the miners have remained steadfast in their determination to win their rights, and in their determination not to be forced into lawlessness.

The officials of the miners asked for an injunction restraining the appointment of additional deputies to serve the mine operators—their request was refused. The mine operators asked for an injunction restraining the strikers from picketing, "molesting" men going to or from work and from parading in the vicinity of the mines—that order was granted.

Such are the conditions under which these copper miners are waging their fight for justice and a life somewhat better worth living. With all the forces of capital and organized society working against them, they have maintained courage, determination, and good spirit. There are 16,000 miners engaged in this struggle. A large number of miners and their families were evicted from their homes, owned by the corporations. The lives, safety, and welfare of something like 50,000 men, women, and children are bound up with its fate. The strike has now been in progress for over two months, and still the mine operators maintain stubborn resistance and unreasonable refusal to consider the demands of the men. The long, hard winter of Northern Michigan is approaching, and these brave men, women, and children who are bearing the brunt of this fight for industrial justice for American workingmen are in need.

Two members of our Executive Council, John Mitchell and John B. Lennon, have been among these strikers and presented to us unquestionable evidence of the conditions there. After consideration of the conditions, the need and importance of the issues involved, the Executive Council makes this appeal to all the members of organized labor for prompt and generous financial assistance to aid these needy and suffering fellow-workers, their wives and children.

We appeal in the name of all labor and common humanity that each local union at once make an appropriation from its funds of not less than five cents for each member; that each Central Labor Union select a committee to appeal to all workers and friends to contribute promptly and as generously as possible, and to use every other honorable means by which funds may be secured. The men and women and children of Calumet, Michigan, must not be starved into submission. They must and they will win, if the toilers of our country will but do their duty.

Remember that the splendid solidarity of the workers of America largely aided in securing the magnificent victory of the anthracite miners a few years ago. The newspapers have suppressed nearly all reference to the Calumet miners' strike. In this appeal we hope to reach the minds, hearts, and the consciences of our fellow-workers and friends, and thereby secure their ready response to the call for aid.

Send all contributions to **FRANK MORRISON,** Secretary, American Federation of Labor, Ouray Building, Washington, D. C., who will return receipt for the same and promptly forward every dollar to the immediate aid of the struggling miners of Calumet.

Fraternally yours,

Saml Gompers.
President.

Attest:

Frank Morrison
Secretary.

JAMES DUNCAN, First Vice President.
JOHN MITCHELL, Second Vice President.
JAMES O'CONNELL, Third Vice President.
D. A. HAYES, Fourth Vice President.
WM. D. HUBER, Fifth Vice President.
JOS. F. VALENTINE, Sixth Vice President.
JOHN R. ALPINE, Seventh Vice President.
H. B. PERHAM, Eighth Vice President.
JOHN B. LENNON, Treasurer.

Executive Council, American Federation of Labor.

WAITING FOR FUNDS.

Washington, Oct. 4.—The Chairman of the Government Commission on Industrial Relations, Frank P. Walsh, of Kansas City, was in this city recently for the purpose of conferring with other members of the commission, and called upon the President for the purpose of discussing plans for organizing the commission. The commission is awaiting the passage of the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, which carries $100,000 for its support. Mr. Walsh stated that in all probability the headquarters of the commission would be located in this city. Nothing further will be done until the appropriation is made, as there are no funds with which to carry the work of the commission forward.

PRINTERS GET WAGE RAISE.

Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 4.—The local Typographical Union has secured a new agreement with the employing printers for an increase in wages to cover a period of one year. The new wage rate is $19 per week for day men in book, job, and newspaper offices, and the night scale will be $22. This agreement also provides that, beginning on October 1, 1914, in addition to adding another dollar to the rate of wages, time and one-half will be allowed for all overtime. Springfield Typographical Union now has the largest number of members in its history, there being approximately 150 affiliates.

FOR SAFETY AT SEA.

Washington, Oct. 4.—The Secretary of Commerce and chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, have consulted with President Wilson regarding the American Commissioners to be appointed to the International Maritime Conference at London in November to consider greater security of life and property at sea. The President will soon name these commissioners and send their names to the Senate for confirmation.

TORONTO NEWS.

Toronto, Canada, Oct. 4.—The local Plumbers and Steamfitters' Union still continues to increase its membership, and it has been months since the organization has held a meeting without the initiation of new members. The Egg Candlers of this city have applied to the organization committee of the District Council to assist them in organizing a local union. This assistance will be given to the Candlers.

MINERS STEADFAST.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Organizer John L. Lewis, of the American Federation of Labor, who is now assisting in the conduct of the strike of the Michigan copper miners, recently sent this report of a meeting: "Despite inclement weather, many thousands of miners attended mass meeting in Laurium. Meeting preceded by a parade which took forty-five minutes to pass given point. Intense interest and enthusiasm displayed by strikers. Remarkable demonstration was complete surprise to mining companies that were boasting that recent injunction had dampened ardor of men."

FEAR BIG WEAVERS' STRIKE.

Webster, Mass. Oct. 4.—A general strike of 4,000 weavers at the mills of Salter and Sons, now working night and day on government contracts, is feared on account of the walkout of 500 weavers. The strikers are now receiving $7 a week and demand the one loom schedule, which would double their pay. Employes in the mills are restless and a complete shut down would not be surprising.

STOPPED ENGINES.

Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 4.—Seventeen of the twenty-one locomotives in use on the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad were condemned by boiler inspectors and taken out of service. The tie up of the engines resulted in a temporary prostration of train movements, but upon proper repairs being made these engines were permitted to enter the service again and normal operations of trains restored.

AGAINST MARTINE BILL.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania presented to the Senate a petition emanating from the Business Men's Organizations of the State, protesting against the passage of Senator Martine's bill, prohibiting the employment of mine guards by private interests.

INTERVIEW PRESIDENT.

Washington, Oct. 4.—The Executive Council, in session in this city the week of September 22-27, called upon President Wilson for the purpose of discussing labor legislation. Secretary of Labor Wilson also accompanied the Executive Council. The President was requested to use his influence to increase the appropriation for the Department of Labor and for the passage of numerous labor measures now pending before Congress. Among the measures urged were the Seamen's Bill, a bill to limit the indiscriminate issuance of injunctions against labor organizations, a bill for industrial and vocational training, and other bills to which the Federation of Labor is committed.

TO PROTECT WORKMEN.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Representative Frank Buchanan of Illinois, one of the labor group in Congress, has renewed his efforts of last session to have Congress provide protection for workmen employed in building construction in the District of Columbia. In a bill presented by him it is provided that contractors shall use material for scaffolding which has been carefully selected and of undoubted strength. The measure, if adopted, will increase the powers of the building inspector of the District and would make any offense punishable by both fine and imprisonment.

SCHEME FAILS.

Wellsburg, W. Va., Oct. 4.—Twenty-five boys and young men brought from New York by the Eagle Glass Company to work as strike-breakers quit upon their arrival because they had been lured to this place by false pretenses. Upon their arrival here they were quartered overnight in a vacant storeroom, and for the first time learned the purpose for which they had been imported. This struggle has been on for a number of months, and the company has never been able to secure enough men to conduct its business.

TAX EXEMPTION.

Newburgh, N. Y., Oct. 4.—A piece of vacant property owned by the Central Labor Union of this city has been placed on the exempt tax roll by the board of review. This property is held by the Central Body as a building site for a Labor Temple and is held under what is known as the "Benevolent act" of the legislature, and under the tax laws all benevolent bodies are entitled to exemption, hence the placing of this property on the exemption roll.

REFUSE EXEMPTION.

Albany, Oct. 4.—The Industrial Board of the Department of Labor has denied the application of several iron and steel companies for exemption of blast furnaces from the provision of Section 8-A of the labor law. This law requires that every employer of labor engaged in carrying on any factory or mercantile establishment in the State shall allow every employe at least twenty-four consecutive hours of rest in every seven consecutive days. The Industrial Board's decision, denying application for exemption, was based on its belief that it was the intent and purpose of the law to grant exemptions from the one-day rest in seven provision only in case of emergency, which could not be anticipated in the statute itself, and that the clear intent of the law is not to exempt industries in continuance operation, or to give the industrial board power to suspend the operation of the law except where an emergency occurs which could not be anticipated by the managers of the industry, and the failure to exempt would cause serious loss of property, life or danger to health, and that the exemption should cover only specific cases and not an entire industry, and for specified periods limited in time.

HOMES FOR WORKERS.

Boston, Mass., Oct. 4.—The recent convention of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor indorsed the work of the Massachusetts Homestead Commission. This commission is endeavoring to solve the problem of providing healthful homes at a reasonable cost for workers. The resolution passed indorsing this work points out that the cost of rent and food is constantly rising, and that there are thousands of acres of unused land in every city that is adaptable to the building of comfortable homes. The Legislature is urged to enact legislation whereby the State can use its credit to aid the workers in securing suburban homes on such land, together with providing means whereby families can be taught how to use such suburban homes profitably. The object sought, aside from that already stated, is the abolition of unhealthful congested districts in the cities.

EXPERIMENT BIG SUCCESS.

Pittsburgh, Oct. 4.—That a barrier of pulverized stone will effectually restrain a coal dust explosion in a coal mine from spreading, was conclusively proven, according to experts, by the demonstration put on at the Bruceton experimental mines before the delegates to the convention of the American Mine Safety Association. Coal dust had been placed in the main entry from the face to within 500 feet of the mouth. At that point a ten-foot taffanel barrier consisting of a number of shelves two feet wide, covered with as much stone dust as could be heaped upon them, had been erected. Igniting cannon had been mounted at the face and these were exploded by electricity. This caused the coal dust to explode, reproducing conditions that prevail in a mine during an explosion. It was found that the flames had not passed the barrier.

ENGINEERS THREATEN STRIKE.

New Haven, Conn., Oct. 4.—A vote on the question of giving support to the officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, even to the extent of going on strike, to enforce a demand for a withdrawal of rules recently promulgated by the general manager of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Road, is now going on. The employes object to that part of the new rules where it is provided "that in promotions or assignments to special runs engineers' fitness must be as much a governing condition as seniority." The engineers object to the word "fitness," owing to the fact that it is feared that the construction which can be placed upon the particular word would in effect destroy the seniority custom so long in vogue.

SILK WORKERS STRIKE.

Hazleton, Pa., Oct. 4.—The plant of the Luzerne Silk Throwing Company in Larksville has been closed down because of the strike of its employes. The employes joined a union some time ago, and upon the officers of the company learning this, things were made as unpleasant as possible for the members of the local union employed at the mill, and finally two of the employes, the President and Secretary of the Union, were discharged. The other employes made an ineffective effort to have the discharged men reinstated, but, failing, went on strike in self-protection. This company also operates a mill at Freeland, and unless the company recedes it is rumored that the employes of the latter plant will also go out.

FAVOR AMENDMENT.

New York, Oct. 4.—The New York State Workmen's Compensation Committee of the National Civic Federation met here for the purpose of planning a campaign arouse interest in the adoption of a proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of New York. The amendment, if adopted by the people, will enable the legislature to pass a compulsory workmen's compensation law at its next session. The State Federation of Labor has indorsed the amendment, and was represented at the conference by its president. Other labor officials of national repute also attended, and a number of large employers were also present.

LAWS IN EFFECT.

Albany, Oct. 4.—Practically all laws enacted at the regular session of the Legislature, improving working conditions for factory and mercantile employes, went into effect October 1. Prominent among these measures are at least one full day of rest in seven, providing for additional sanitary appliances, protection from fire and machinery and placing greater restrictions on sweat shops and tenement house industries, as well as labor performed by women and children. Most of these laws are the result of the researches and recommendations of the State Factory Investigating Commission.

LABOR MAN GETS POSITION.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 4.—The Commission of Labor and Industry has appointed Francis Feehan, of Allegheny County, as Supervising Inspector for the Western Pennsylvania District. Mr. Feehan is well and favorably known among the coal miners of the country, and during the last few months was one of their legislative representatives in Washington, D. C.

GET NEW CONTRACT.

Houston, Tex., Oct. 4.—The Stage Employes have secured a new contract which will eventually cover every theater in this city. Every house has signed, except one, and it is expected that as soon as the manager returns to this city from an extended trip he will also sign the agreement.

INTRODUCES LOAN BILL.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Representative Frank Buchanan of Illinois, a member of the labor group, has introduced a bill in the House amending the act of June 25, 1910, an act to establish postal savings depositories for depositing savings with the government. The bill contains an elaborate scheme whereby the government is to receive deposits from individuals and corporations. It is also contemplated that there shall be created a loan bureau, under the supervision of a board of trustees, for the purpose of making loans on agricultural lands and improvements, homes, and for other purposes. The annual rate of interest is placed at 3 per cent, and with a time limit of twenty years. It is further provided that counties, cities, villages, townships, school districts, or any other public taxing body can borrow money from the government for the construction of public works within a prescribed limit. One provision makes it possible for those who desire to purchase homes to borrow a sum not to exceed 50 per cent of the assessed valuation. The scheme of the bill is for the purpose of providing means for those who have small means to secure a home at a reasonable rate of interest on deferred payments, as well as affording states and sub-divisions thereof, empowered to levy taxes, an opportunity to promote public works.

INCREASING SCOPE.

Bloomington, Ill., Oct. 4.—At the recent convention of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, forty-six propositions were referred to a referendum vote of the affiliated unions. One of the propositions includes the changing of the name of the international body from the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America to the Tailors' Industrial Union. A companion proposition in consonance with this proposed change submits a plan for the Tailors to acquire jurisdiction over all persons employed at the trade, including the Pressers, and every one who plys the needle. According to the phraseology used the meaning is evident, that is, that if the plan is indorsed by the referendum vote it means that the Tailors' Industrial Union will claim jurisdiction over the field that is now covered by the United Garment Workers of America and the International Lady Garment Workers. The referendum vote will be taken prior to November 15.

SETTLEMENT REACHED.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 4.—Conferences which have been going on since May between the management of the Kansas City Southern Railroad and the committee representing the different shop organizations have resulted in an agreement. Among the principal demands made by the committee representing the shop men were future negotiations with the federated trades and an increase in the wage scale. It is stated that the railroad representatives at first refused to deal with the federation, asserting that they would only treat with the representatives of each trade separately. It is now said that, although the settlement has not been given out at yet, the railroads finally receded from their position, and will now deal with the federation of trades, as well as agreeing to an increase of 1 1-2 cents to 2 cents an hour, and also a six-day week of nine hours each.

ANOTHER BLOW AT TRUST.

Washington, Oct. 4.—The Secretary of the Navy has awarded a contract for sixty-one tons of steel bolts for use in the construction of battleship No. 39 to the Carbon Steel Company at a contract price of $448 a ton. Heretofore it has been customary to give the contract for furnishing the bolts to the successful bidder for the armor plate contract. This year, however, the Navy Department called for separate bids on bolts from the Midvale, Bethlehem, and Carnegie Companies, and each submitted a price of $548 a ton, or $100 more per ton than the figure named by the Carbon Company. To the same end, and for similar reasons, the New York Navy Yard has secured a contract for making two tons of bronze bolts, the figure named by the three companies being very much higher than that made by the New York Navy Yard.

CHANGES PLAN.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Recently it was announced by Secretary of the Navy Daniels that navy yard employes would be represented on the wage boards, but it now develops that a change is to be made in that plan, and the United States Department of Labor is to be called upon to determine the wage scale for the different yards. The law requires that "navy yard employes be paid wages equivalent to those in civil establishments in the vicinity." The Secretary of the Department of Labor therefore will make the investigation and report his findings to the Navy Department, thus eliminating the former plan of placing representatives of the navy yard workmen on the wage boards as previously.

CONSTRUES 54-HOUR LAW.

Austin, Tex., Oct. 4.—The fifty-four-hour law, passed by the recent legislature limiting the hours of female employes applies to women employed as operators in private telephone exchanges, providing such employes are working in towns of more than 5,000 inhabitants. This was the ruling of the Attorney General when that question was brought up by the Labor Department of the State. Prior to this decision there was doubt as to the applicability of this act, when operators working as such in private exchanges were on duty as operators for only a few hours of the day, but the remainder of the time working as stenographers and clerks.

RAILROAD BILL REPORTED.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Under the terms of a bill favorably reported to the House by the Committee on Territories, President Wilson is authorized to take steps to build a government railroad in Alaska and issue $35,000,000 in bonds for its construction. The purpose of the road is to connect the Susitna Valley with the Seaboard, and also open up the Bering River coal fields, connecting Nome, Valdez, and Fairbanks. A bill of a similar character has already passed the Senate.

TO BOOST PAY.

Washington, Oct. 4.—A bill increasing the salaries of rural mail carriers on routes six miles in length $30 per month and on longer routes $30 per month, has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Woodruff. The increases are proposed because of the additional work entailed on account of the parcel post.

WANT LABOR TEMPLE.

Akron, Ohio, Oct. 4.—Efforts are being made by the Central Labor Union to secure sufficient funds for the erection of a Labor Temple. Active work is now being done to raise the money.